

Finding Your Way at NIH: The Application and Grant Review Process

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Scientific Review Officer

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Who/What is a Scientific Review Officer?

- ◆ manages the review of grants, contracts, cooperative agreements
- ◆ appoints members to initial review groups/study sections/special emphasis panels
- ◆ responds to questions about review at Advisory Councils and Board meetings
- ◆ prepares summary statements reflecting IRG recommendations

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (F.O.A.)

☉ Different types:

- Parent Announcements (PA)
- Requests for Applications (RFA)

☉ Defines many things:

- Eligibility
- Length of Award
- Amount of Award
- Expectations/Intent
- Review Criteria
- Receipt Date

Finding the Right FOA

- Match where you are in your career
 - Pre-doc, Post-doc, New faculty member
- Match the type of research
 - e.g., intervention development, secondary analyses, treatment, efficacy/effectiveness
- Match what types of funds are needed
 - e.g. how much \$\$, over how many years

Who/What is a Program Officer?

- ◆ manages grants, contracts, cooperative agreements
- ◆ identifies needs in scientific areas
- ◆ identifies scientific areas of special interest and communicates interest
- ◆ monitors scientific progress and reports program accomplishments
- ◆ advocates for the best science

Preparation of the Application

- ◆ Help from NIH Program Officer
 - Discuss science/proposed project
 - Discuss NIH Institute's degree of interest in proposed project
 - Discuss application and review process
 - Discuss funding mechanisms

How to submit an application

- The real applicant is your institution.
- The application process requires coordination with the grants office at your institution. Seek advice on this process.
- Electronic Process → [http: www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Use SF424 (R&R), a federal-wide data set for research grant applications

What you should do after submission

- Use the eRA Commons to communicate with the NIH
 - contact institutional grants office to get access
 - Find details about:
 - Review Assignment
 - Date of Review
 - Scientific Review Officer – contact if you need to make corrections (some types are allowed)
 - Program Assignment

Scientific Review Groups



- Each review group has roughly 10-25 members who are primarily from academia.
- Standing review groups convene face-to-face meetings.

Scientific Review Groups

- Two types:
 - Standing Study Sections
 - Identified by acronyms – SRNS
 - Have consistent membership
 - Special Emphasis Panels
 - ZMH1 ERB-I (01)
 - Meet one-time only
- Rosters are publicly available (transparency).
 - Find the roster and discuss it with program officer and/or mentor

Review Criteria

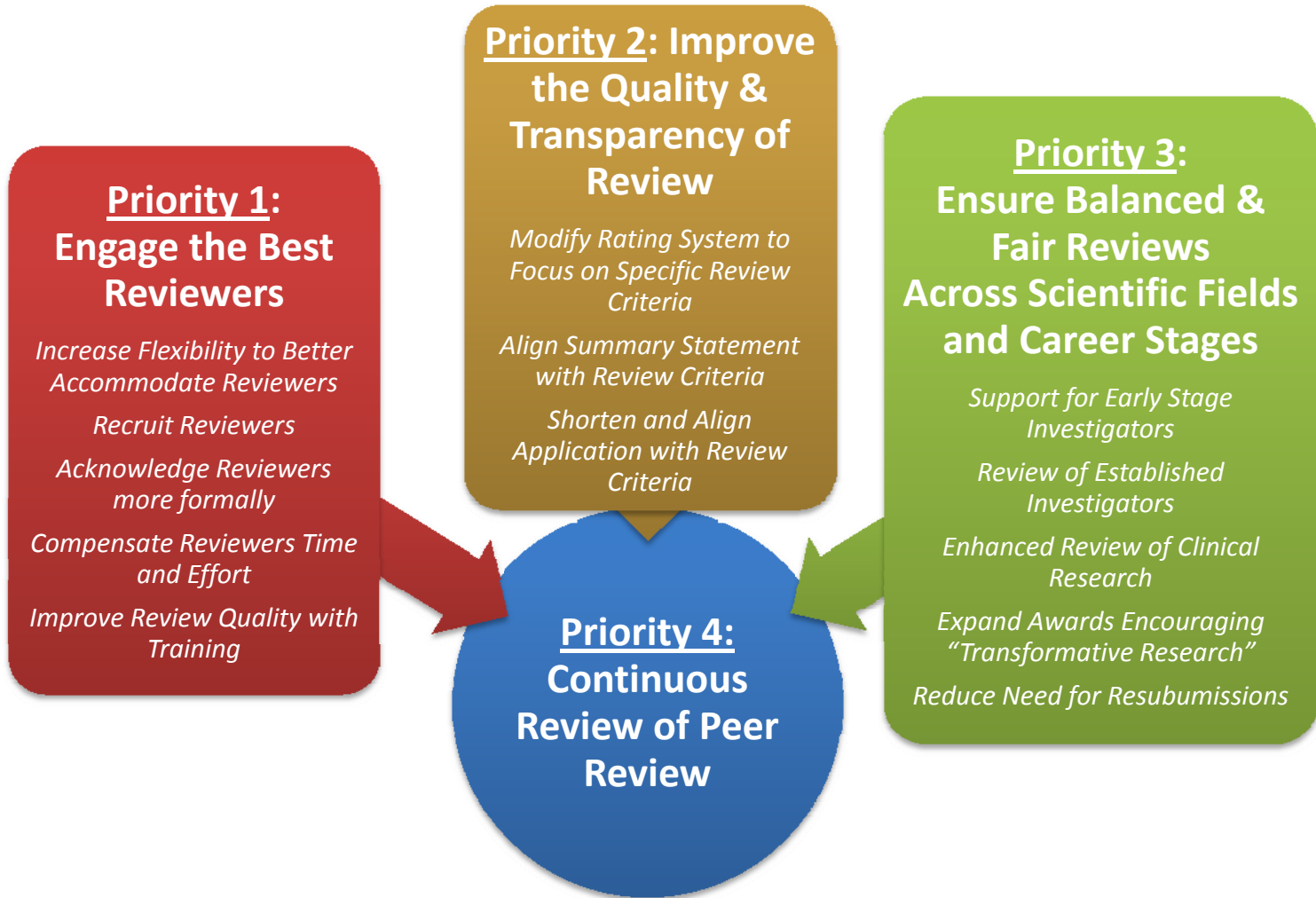
- May differ by mechanism type, but many involve:
 - Significance
 - Approach
 - Innovation
 - Investigator
 - Environment

- Results in a *Priority Score (10-90 scale)*

Results of review

- After your application is reviewed, you may get results through the Commons
 - Scores (within a few days of the review)
 - Summary Statement (within a few weeks)
- Discuss with program officer and/or mentor.

Enhancing Peer Review

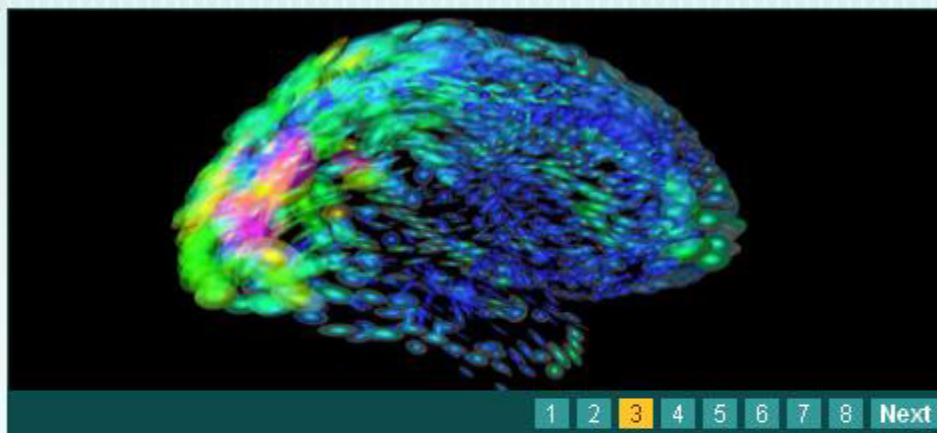


Enhancing Peer Review (from the applicant's perspective)

- More quantitative feedback (criterion scores)
- New/Early Stage Investigators
- Shorter applications (12 page R01)
- Only two submissions (A2s have expired)
 - MORE submissions?

Quick Links

[About OppNet](#)
[Data & Statistics](#)
[NIH Initiatives](#)
[OppNet Members](#)
[Submission Tips](#)



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., announced the launch of the Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet) on November 18, 2009. OppNet is a trans-NIH initiative to expand the agency's funding of basic behavioral and social sciences research (b-BSSR). Basic-BSSR furthers our understanding of fundamental mechanisms and patterns of behavioral and social functioning, relevant to the Nation's health and well-being, as they interact with each other, with biology and the environment. Research results lead to new approaches for reducing risky behaviors and improving health. [Read More >](#)

News & Events

[NIH Undergoes Behavior \(Research\) Modification](#)
[OppNet Press Releases](#)
[Other NIH Press Releases](#)
[Basic Behavioral and Social Science Research Initiative Launched](#)
[A New Era for Basic Behavioral Research at NIH](#)
[View All >](#)



NIMH Strategic Plan

- Strategic Objective #1: Promote Discovery in the Brain and Behavioral Sciences to Fuel Research on the Causes of Mental Disorders
- Strategic Objective #2: Chart Mental Illness Trajectories to Determine When, Where and How to Intervene

- Strategic Objective #3: Develop New and Better Interventions for Mental Disorders that Incorporate the Diverse Needs and Circumstances of People with Mental Illness
 - NAMHC Treatment Development Report
- Strategic Objective #4: Strengthen the Public Health Impact of NIMH-Supported Research

Recommendations

- Know the NIH (www.nih.gov)
 - “NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts”
 - NIH Scientific Initiatives
 - NIH Policy
- Know IC Program Announcements and Requests for Applications
- Contact Program Staff & Discuss Division Priorities
- Find Roster of the Initial Review Group to which your application is assigned

